**Study Guide: “Thank You M’am” and “Mother to Son”**

1. What does the woman do to the boy after he tries to steal her purse?
2. How would you have reacted if you were Mrs. Jones?
3. What can you infer about Roger’s home life?
4. Why doesn’t Roger run out of the room when he has the chance?
5. Mrs. Jones leaves her purse unattended with Roger out of her sight. What is revealed by this action?
6. Explain the phrase: “because shoes come by devilish ways like that will burn your feet.”
7. Why does Mrs. Jones tell Roger about her past?
8. What two character traits describe Mrs. Jones’s character throughout the whole story?
9. What does Roger learn by the end of the story?
10. Why does Roger find it difficult to say more than “thank you, m’am”?
11. What is the difference between internal and external conflict? Give one example of **each** from the story.
12. What is the climax of the story “Thank You, M’am”?
13. In the poem “Mother to Son,” what does the mother compare her life to?
14. Look back at the stories “Thank You, M’am” and “Seventh Grade.” Find one example of dialect from each.
15. How is the mother in the poem “Mother to Son” similar to Mrs. Jones in “Thank You, M’am”?

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Vocabulary: **presentable mistrust suede frail barren**

Essay: Choose an essay topic below. Begin planning your essay by finding specific examples from the texts you choose. Remember your examples MUST support your answer.

* 1. How does the idea of survival relate to the short story “Thank You M’am”? Give three examples of support from the story. Identify the example by its literary element (plot, theme, characters, etc.)
  2. Compare/contrast conflicts in the story “Thank You, M’am” with the poem “Mother to Son.” Be sure to include one example of internal and one example of external conflict.
  3. Choose one of the poems below. How is the central metaphor in this poem similar to that of “Mother to Son?” How are the conflicts similar?

**-from “The Climb”**

**by Miley Cyrus**

'Cause there's always gonna be another mountain

I'm always gonna wanna make it move

Always gonna be an uphill battle

Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose  
  
Ain't about how fast I get there

Ain't about what's waiting on the other side

It's the climb

**“The Rose that Grew from Concrete”**

**by TuPac Shakur**

Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete?

Proving nature's law is wrong it learned to walk without having feet.

Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams, it learned to breathe fresh air.

Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else ever cared.